

continued from page 495

A14). Because current asthma self-management programs are not widely available or tailored to the unique needs of urban black patients and often require a moderately high level of reading skills or education, innovative educational programs must be devised for this population.

Although exploratory in nature, results of our pilot study suggest that an asthma self-management video with a pre- and postquestionnaire can be a highly effective, low-cost, high-impact, educational intervention in this population. Due to the availability of video equipment in the majority of the District's public schools and libraries, a randomized trial is planned to further examine the effectiveness of this educational intervention. Our video program also could serve as a model for similar programs aimed at inner-city black populations in the United States.

Sherahe B. Fitzpatrick, MD

Mary Carroll Sullivan

Robert T. Scanlon, MD

Sarah Long, PhD

Bettina Hilman, MD

Alan Fields, MD

David Campbell, RCPT, RT

Georgetown University

Washington, DC

and Louisiana State University

Shreveport, Louisiana

Literature Cited

1. Conboy K. Self-management skills for cooperative care in asthma. *J Pediatr*. 1989;115:863-866.
2. NHLBI National Asthma Education Program Expert Panel Report. *Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma*. Bethesda, Md: US Dept of Health and Human Services; 1991. Publication 91-3042.
3. Parker SR, Mellins RB, Soan DD. Asthma education: a national strategy. *Am Rev Respir Dis*. 1989;140:843-853.
4. Creer TL. Psychological factors in death from asthma: creation and critique of a myth. *J Asthma*. 1986;23:261-269.
5. Clark NM. Asthma self-management education—research and implications for clinical practice. *Chest*. 1989;94:965-969.
6. Howland J, Bauchner H, Adair R. The impact of pediatric asthma education: assessing the evidence. *Chest*. 1988;94:965-969.
7. Rachelefsky GS. Review of asthma self-management programs. *J Allergy Clin Immunol*. 1987;80:506-511.
8. Wilson-Pessaro SR, Mellins RB. Workshop in asthma self-management: workshop summary. *J Allergy Clin Immunol*. 1987;80:487-490.
9. Gergen PJ, Weiss KB. Changing patterns of asthma hospitalization among children: 1979 to 1987. *JAMA*. 1990;264:1689-1693.
10. Buist AS, Vollmer W. Reflections on the rise in asthma morbidity and mortality. *JAMA*. 1990;264:1719-1720.
11. Fitzpatrick SB, Coughlin S, Chamberlin J, Pediatric Lung Committee of ALADC. A novel asthma camp intervention for childhood asthma among urban blacks. *Am J Dis Child*. 1990;144:425.
12. Fitzpatrick SB, Coughlin S, Chamberlin J, Pediatric Lung Committee of the American Lung Association of the District of Columbia (ALADC). A novel asthma camp intervention for childhood asthma among urban blacks. *J Natl Med Assoc*. 1992;84:233-237.
13. Fitzpatrick SB, Weir C, Coughlin S, Scanlon R. Use of peak flow monitoring among urban black children with asthma. *J Natl Med Assoc*. 1992;84:477-479.
14. Bronheim S, Jacobstein D. Psychosocial assessment in chronic and fatal illness. In: Magrab P, ed. *Psychological and Behavioral Assessment: Impact on Pediatric Care*. New York, NY: Plenum Press; 1984.
15. Melamed BC, Siegel LJ. Reduction of anxiety in children facing hospitalization and surgery with use of filmed modeling. *J Consult Clin Psychol*. 1975;43:411-521.
16. Peterson L, Ridley-Johnson R. Preparations of well children in the classroom: an unexpected contrast between academic lecture and filmed modeling methods. *J Pediatr Psychol*. 1984;9:349-361.
17. Peterson L, Schultheis K, Ridley-Johnson R, Miller D, Tracy K. Comparison of three modeling procedures on the presurgical and postsurgical realities of children. *Behavior Therapy*. 1984;15:197-203.

Cold Preservation of Enteric Free Flaps

To the Editor:

It was with interest and delight that I read the article, "Cold Preservation of Enteric Free Flaps: An Experimental Study" by Drs Dennis, Ransome, and Massac (*J Natl Med Assoc*. 1992;85:142-144). It brought back memories of a study I presented to the Surgical Research Forum of Tufts University School of Medicine in March 1965 entitled, "Auto- and Homotransplantation of the Small Intestine in the Dog: A Preliminary Study of Morphological and Histological Alterations."

Their preliminary findings of ischemia of the small intestine in the dog up to 2 hours is consistent with others and the unpublished study I presented at the Tufts' Surgical Research Forum. It should be noted and emphasized that the histological changes in the submucosa of the small intestine is where the danger lies: edema and hemorrhage within the submucosa bespeaks danger and that is where catastrophe strikes. The sloughed mucosa will regenerate.

Drs Dennis, Ransome, and Massac should be encouraged and supported in their research with the small intestine.

W. Anthony Allison, MD

Philadelphia VA Medical Center

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Corrections

Several typographical errors appeared in the article, "The Acceptability of the Female Condom Among Low-Income African-American Women," by Dr Sher-vington (*J Natl Med Assoc*. continued on page 564

Years of Caring." Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, Georgia. For information, call (202) 347-1895.

August 3-8, 1996

The 101st Annual Convention of the NMA. Chicago Marriott, Chicago, Illinois.

Summer 1996

5th Quadrennial Conference of the National Black Congress on Health Law and Economics. Prob-

ably Chicago. For information, call Derrick A. Humphries, JD, (202) 659-4020.

July 24-31, 1997

The 102nd Annual Convention of the NMA. Washington, DC.

August 1-5, 1998

The 103rd Annual Convention of the NMA. San Diego, California.

The Calendar lists conventions, meetings, courses, and other events of interest to NMA members, or events concerning the NMA's mission. Send information about coming events for the Calendar to Theresa Greene Reed, MD, MPH, 11516 Patapsco Dr, Rockville, MD 20852; (301) 468-6830.

continued from page 497

1993;85:341-347). On page 341, the second and third sentences in the second paragraph of the Abstract should read: "The main finding from these discussions is that the previously reported low-risk perception of HIV disease among African-American females is also true

among this group. The discussions suggest that cultural norm of female submission and passivity in sexual negotiation..." Also on page 341, the first sentence in the third paragraph of the Abstract should read: "This study also demonstrates that the dynamics of universality and interpersonal learning inherent to

insight-oriented or support groups can also be present in focus groups." On page 346, the first sentence of the third paragraph in the right-hand column should read: "The inherent group dynamics of universality and interpersonal learning are present in these focus groups."